



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of stolen firearms.

Brandon Spoon, 20, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 15 years in federal prison without parole. Graves noted that the court sentenced **Spoon** as an armed career criminal, based on prior felony convictions.

“We aggressively prosecute felons who illegally possess firearms, and this case illustrates why that is such a high priority,” Graves said. “Anyone with more than a dozen felony convictions on his record, as with this defendant, threatens the safety of our community when he is carrying a gun, because he is more likely to commit another violent crime.

“Our goal is to keep guns out of the hands of felons,” Graves added, “but when felons violate federal law by possessing firearms, we will protect our community by incarcerating criminals where they can no longer pose a danger.”

On Jan. 22, 2004, **Spoon** pleaded guilty to two counts of federal firearms violations.

By pleading guilty to the first count, **Spoon** admitted that he was a felon in possession of a shotgun and two pistols, along with ammunition, between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2002, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Spoon** has 2002 criminal felony convictions for tampering (11 counts), stealing (seven counts) and burglary in Greene County.

By pleading guilty to the second count, **Spoon** admitted that he was in possession of stolen firearms between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2002, in Greene County.

Spoon was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow